

1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

UDK 351.865(497.452)"1991"

Prejeto: 23. 3. 2016

**Rok Filipčič**univ. dipl. zgod., kustos, Vojaški muzej Slovenske vojske, Engelsova 15, SI-2111 Maribor
E-pošta: rok.filipcic@mors.si**»Naši fantje so se imenitno izkazali«*****Bojni dogodki med obrambno vojno leta 1991 na Zgornjem Gorenjskem**

IZVLEČEK

Pričujoči prispevek govori o bojnih dogodkih na Zgornjem Gorenjskem v zgodnjem poletju leta 1991, ki sodijo v okvir zaščite plebiscitarne odločitve slovenskega naroda decembra 1990. Poudarek je predvsem na delovanju Teritorialne obrambe in Jugoslovanske ljudske armade, omenjene pa so tudi nekatere aktivnosti takratne slovenske milice in drugih struktur, ki so sodelovale v omenjenem dogajanju. V uvodu so na kratko opisani dogodki, ki so pripeljali do vojaškega spopada na ozemlju Slovenije, temu pa sledi kronološki pregled bojnih dogodkov. Prispevek je pisan večinoma na osnovi že objavljene literature, časopisnih člankov iz tistega časa in pričevanj udeležencev, saj gradivo Teritorialne obrambe in Jugoslovanske ljudske armade v veliki meri še ni dostopno raziskovalcem.

KLJUČNE BESEDE

samostojna in neodvisna Republika Slovenija, leto 1991, obrambna vojna, Jugoslovanska ljudska armada, Teritorialna obramba, Zgornja Gorenjska.

ABSTRACT

»OUR BOYS DID AN AMAZING JOB«

WARTIME EVENTS IN ZGORNJA GORENJSKA DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1991

The paper at hand describes wartime events that took place in Zgornja Gorenjska in the early summer of 1991 to secure the plebiscitary decision of the Slovenian nations of December 1990. Special emphasis is placed on the operations of the Territorial Defence of the Republic of Slovenia and the Yugoslav People's Army, and the author also refers to some activities carried out by the then Slovenian militia and other structures that took part in said events. After briefly outlining the events that led to armed conflict in the territory of Slovenia in the introductory part, the author provides a chronological overview of wartime developments. The paper mostly draws on published literature, newspaper articles of that time and testimonies of participants, as the material of the RS Territorial Defence and the Yugoslav People's Army still remains largely inaccessible to researchers.

KEY WORDS

independent and sovereign Republic of Slovenia, 1991, war of independence, Yugoslav People's Army, Territorial Defence, Zgornja Gorenjska.

* Naslov prispevka je povzet po naslovu intervjuja s Petrom Zupanom, poveljnikom Gorenjske pokrajine Teritorialne obrambe, v časniku *Gorenjski glas* z dne 9. 7. 1991.

Stušek, Janko S. in Janez Koselj in Ludvik Zvonar: Problemi oddaje orožja Teritorialne obrambe in posledica na njeno oborožitev od maja do oktobra 1990. *20. obletnica Manevrske strukture narodne zaščite, Zbornik prispevkov in razprav* (ur. Anton Pozvek in drugi), Ljubljana: Zveza policijski veteranski društvi Sever in drugi, 2011.

Steiner, Alojz: Značilnosti bojnega delovanja TO v Vzhodnoštajerski pokrajini v vojni leta 1991. *Vojaška zgodovina*, 2, 2001, št. 2/01 (4), str. 68–84.

Švajncar, Janez J.: *Obranili domovino*. Ljubljana: Vi-harnik, 1993.

Uradni list SRS, 2. 10. 1989.

VIDEO ZAPIS

Finžgar, Samo: Osvobajanje Zgornje Gorenjske. Poljče: TV studio MORŠ, 2006 – 2007.



S U M M A R Y

»Our boys did an amazing job.« Wartime events in Zgornja Gorenjska during the War of Independence in 1991

Under the threat of NATO and Warsaw Pact military intervention in Yugoslavia during the days immediately preceding the events that led to Slovenia's independence, the area under the Gorenjska Territorial Defence Headquarters was inextricably entwined with the structures of the Yugoslav People's Army. Particular importance was placed on the road that runs through Gorenjska along the Sava River valley and by crossing the mountain passes connects Ljubljana with the neighbouring Italy and Austria.

The central role of the Yugoslav People's Party in the Gorenjska region in June 1991 was for its units to seize control of border crossings and the Brnik Airport in collaboration with the existing border units. Members of the Territorial Defence Forces operating in the Gorenjska region were well prepared for

the penetration of the Yugoslav People's Army, as the Territorial Defence's municipal headquarters in Gorenjska were among those that refused the order of the RS Territorial Defence Headquarters to surrender their weapons in May 1990. Some Yugoslav People's Army units were commanded by officers who lived in Gorenjska and with whom members of the Territorial Defence were acquainted as well as maintained daily contact. This proved problematic in both the understanding of orders on the use of force and thwarting the movements of the Yugoslav People's Army units, as well as provided some ground on which the authorities in Ljubljana voiced their concern over the sluggishness of the Territorial Defence units operating in Gorenjska. Soon after the aggression against Slovenia started, the international border crossing Karavanke became the key point for the Yugoslav People's Army in Gorenjska. Many believed that once the Territorial Defence seized the Karavanke border crossing, other border crossings would fall under Slovenian control at an even faster rate. Their predictions proved correct, especially on account of certain clashes from which the Territorial Defence units emerged victorious as well as a successful blockade of the Yugoslav People's Army barracks and border guardhouses. Inadequate hygienic conditions that arose as a result of the blockade of the Yugoslav People's Army facilities, disconnection of water, electricity and telephone services, coupled with the awareness that the tide of war was turning into the favour of the opponent's side, undermined the readiness among the Yugoslav People's Army soldiers to engage in combat. Soon followed the first surrenders of individual members of the Yugoslav People's Army and then larger groups. Armed conflict in Gorenjska came to an end after the signing of the truce between the opposing sides on 3 July. The Yugoslav People's Army units started to retreat into their military barracks. On 7 July the Brioni Declaration was signed, defining the tasks and measures for the establishment of peace that were binding for all parties concerned. The last chapter of the war was written on 25 October, the day that witnessed the departure of the last soldiers of the Yugoslav People's Army from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia.